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Our Priority Issues

- *Abolish nuclear weapons*
- *End the war in Afghanistan*
- *Prevent a war with Iran*
- *Create a peace economy*

Budget For All State Hearing



On July 10, in a hearing room overflowing with people, the Committee on Veteran and Federal Affairs listened to over 30 speakers urge the State Legislature to call for an end to federal budget cuts and redirect tax dollars toward meeting human needs. Community members, labor and peace groups, elected officials, and policy experts spoke for the

Budget for All Resolution, which is before the State Legislature as H. 3211 and S. 1750.

The non-binding resolution was on the ballot in November 2012, and passed in all 91 towns that were polled. The resolution calls on Congress to formulate a budget focused on prosperity, not austerity. It asks Congress and the President to prevent cuts to benefit pro-

grams such as social security and food and unemployment assistance; to create and protect jobs by investing in manufacturing, in schools, housing, and other public services; close corporate tax loopholes; and redirect military spending to domestic needs.

Many of the speakers at the hearing gave personal testimonies of budget cuts that affected their lives. As Michael Kane of the Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants stated, "The country doesn't have a debt crisis, we have a jobs and inequality crisis."

At the end of the day, the Committee heard the speakers' demands loud and clear: Cut the bloated military budget and redirect the funding to improve our communities.

Remembering Hiroshima

On August 6th, 2013, the 68th anniversary of the first nuclear bombing of civilians, Peace Action organized an observance in Cambridge. Participants recalled the horror of that morning in Hiroshima in 1945, just after 8:00 AM when many thousands of innocents were killed and injured. The occasion served as a reminder of the threat of nuclear weapons even today.



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Peace Pagoda members lead the walk.

In Memoriam: Ken Thomson

The chair of the Massachusetts Peace Action Education Fund board, our colleague and dear friend of many years, Ken Thomson, died on May 24, 2013. Ken was a man of many interests and deep convictions. He believed passionately in the potential of democracy, the advantages of community living, the necessity of peace and a sustainable environment, and the vision of a world without nuclear weapons. He had a wide-ranging intellect, holding advanced degrees in Philosophy, and in The Structure of Communities.

Twenty-five years ago, Ken convened the Cambridge area Core Group of 2020 Vision (now 2020 Action), to address the dangers facing the environment, and the threat



posed by nuclear weapons. He had chaired the Massachusetts Peace Action Education Fund board since 2006. Ken was active in CPPAX, the Coalition for a Strong United Nations, and was a founder of Cornerstone Co-Housing.

Most vividly, I see Ken sitting at the other end of the couch during meetings at Ernesta's giving us the results of his extensive research for the upcoming 2020 Action card on some timely issue, environmental or nuclear. Ken paid attention to the details but never lost sight of the big important picture. Ken, we miss you greatly.

— Guntram Mueller

Remembering Hiroshima

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It was a truly colorful scene on the steps of City Hall: the saffron robes of the New England Peace Pagoda, the tall flags of Veterans for Peace, the colorful costumes of the Japanese dancers and the Taiko drummer, and the many banners and signs of regular citizens concerned about the threat of nuclear weapons. At City Hall, the Mayor Henrietta Davis read a proclamation passed by the City Council

which urges President Obama to address the UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament on Sept. 26 in NYC. The welcome, singing, dancing, and drumming at City Hall were followed by a solemn memorial procession down Massachusetts Avenue, past Harvard Square to Brattle Square, led by the drummers of the New England Peace Pagoda.

At Brattle Square, talks were given on the possible effects of nuclear weapons on a city like Cambridge, on the role of women in peace movements past and present, and on the current U.S. buildup of nuclear weapons capability, and on what ordinary citizens can do about it.

— Guntram Mueller

"The horror of that morning in 1945 ... serves as a reminder of the horror that threatens us all even today."

Intern's Corner: So Yeon Jeong

As a Massachusetts Peace Action intern this summer, I worked with the communications committee. I worked on various projects including editing this fall newsletter, creating a new website for the organization, taking photos and managing social media. Through my outreach and communications work, I have found myself becoming personally invested in the organization's mission and influ-



lations.

In addition to the specific skills of communications in organizations I learned this summer, I have also learned

ence. Working in an environment in which politics and international issues are the core topics has helped confirm my decision to study and go into a career in International Relations.

a lot about nonprofit grassroots organizations in general. Managing the incredible dreams and goals of Massachusetts Peace Action while realizing the material and theoretical limitations is something that I have learned through my experience. As a student of social issues and with career goals in social policy, I found the balance of such polar realities incredibly helpful experience at MAPA.

So Yeon is a junior at Wellesley College.

Confronting the Challenge of Militarism

Remarks by Brian Corr, Executive Director of the Cambridge Peace Commission, at “Remembering Hiroshima,” August 6, 2013.

The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought a new meaning to the idea of “total war.” The nuclear bombings were a terrible moment in human history, and in the history of war. The people of Hiroshima and the people of Nagasaki paid an unimaginable price. Even



since such a disaster, an incredible amount of our world’s time, talent, and treasure has gone towards the creation and production of nuclear weapons – and to the fear of their possible use.

In 1968 – only 23 years after the first atomic bombs were used – Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. described the spiritual threat to American society that grew out of the intersection of U.S. history, increasing technology, and not meeting the human needs of all.

In his words, “We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.”

More than 40 years later, the United States still faces these three existential challenges to our values as a nation. How do people of faith and courage understand this contradiction and work to heal our society and help it live up to its promise? To do this, we must understand the history of the United States and how it still shapes our country today.

I speak to you as an African-American man, born in Detroit in 1966, who grew up there in the late sixties and seventies. I began my work in the peace movement in Ann Arbor as a volunteer with Nuclear Freeze in 1982 and then as a canvasser there with SANE in 1986.

This is part of the lens through which I see and understand the world. I understand power in our society – in our nation – as being exercised in systemic and systematic ways – and I see it manifested in the same framework that Martin Luther King used when he spoke of the “giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism.”

We are – by far – the most militarized society on the planet. We spend more than the rest of the world combined on war. We have a national fetish about guns – and violence in general – and we consume endless TV shows and movies about the police, hospitals, criminals and the courts, the military, and war.

Coverage of the Olympics, self-described as “representing the best of humanity, where nations put aside their differences to celebrate athletic grace and achievement” in the U.S. consists of profiles of our proud warrior-athletes followed by listings of victories over lesser nations and people.

Although we live in the wealthiest nation on the planet, our political discourse is dominated by the politics of scarcity and fear. Politicians and governments often speak of cutting budgets and reducing services for “those less fortunate” – that is, those who live at the margins of our vast wealth. They say that we simply cannot afford to provide health insurance for the 50 million people in our nation who don’t have it, while we spend about \$700 billion each year directly on the military. The fact that the U.S. dominates the world’s wealth and receives a huge share of its benefits mitigates the desire, or even the ability, to see the need to change our society. This societal inertia also plays itself out in sexism, racism, classism, and all the other “isms” – collectively: oppression.

We are a nation that lives in self-imposed fear: fear of the future, fear of the unknown, fear of our neighbors, and fear even of ourselves. Moreover, most U.S. citizens seem to feel that they are victims of the one “ism” that matters – terrorism, or at least that they are very likely to become victims of terrorism at any moment.

“We are—by far—the most militarized society on the planet.”

Check out our new
website!
www.masspeaceaction.org

Working For Peace

Events Calendar

- September 12, 7:30 pm: Progressive Voters Forum for Congressional District 5 Special Election. Lesley University Auditorium, 1815 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA.
- September 21, 4:00 pm: International Day of Peace, Boston Common
- September 29, 7:00 pm: Josh Ruebner, "Shattered Hopes: Obama's Failure to Broker Israeli-Palestinian Peace", First Parish, 3 Church St, Cambridge
- September 30, 7:00 pm: Board Meeting—all members welcome. First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden Street, Hastings Room.
- October 6 - 8: Malalai Joya, "the bravest woman in Afghanistan," speaking at multiple events in the Boston area.
- October 13, 8pm: Soul Clap's Dance Jam for Peace. Middlesex Lounge, 315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
- November 23, 7:30 pm: Music For Peace - Beethoven, Nicholas Kitchen, violin, Yeesun Kim, cello, and Victor Rosenbaum, piano. Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church, 1551 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
- February 1, 7:30 pm: Music For Peace - Schubert, "Die Winterreise" - A Winter's Journey, with Georg Lehner, baritone, and Victor Rosenbaum, piano. Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church.
- February 8, 1:00 pm: Massachusetts Peace Action 2014 Annual Meeting. Barney Frank, keynote speaker. Location TBA

Up to date events calendar: masspeaceaction.org/events

Join us!

Massachusetts Peace Action is a non-profit, non-partisan grassroots organization building the sustained political power to foster a more just and peaceful U.S. foreign policy.

We are the state-wide affiliate of Peace Action, the nation's largest grassroots peace and justice organization. Our work is funded by member dues and donations. Thank you for your support.

Membership dues are \$40/year for an individual, \$65 for a family or \$10 for students and low income. Send to: 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 or go to masspeaceaction.org/donate



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